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Through Siberia, the Land of the Future. By Fridtjof Nansen. xvi and 478 pp. Maps, ills., index. F. A. Stokes Co., New York, 1914. \$5. 10 x 7½.

The name of the author is a guarantee that the book is worth reading. The first part of the trip was by sea, Norway to the Yenisei River and up the river to Krasnoyarsk; and the second part was by train, Krasnoyarsk to Khabarovsk, Vladivostok and return. The first part was another attempt to open up regular trade connection with the interior of Siberia by way of the Kara Sea and the Yenisei. Dr. Nansen was a guest of the company that sent out the vessel; and, as he was free from responsibility, he had leisure to note the passage of events. So we have his observations and reflections on the physical features of the Polar Sea, his journeys ashore, the native tribes and a vast store of secondary matters.

The steamer reached its destination on the lower Yenisei on time and a transfer was made to a lighter bound for Yeniseisk. The account of the voyage up the river gives a remarkable cross section of Northern Siberia, while the stop at Yeniseisk and the drive to Krasnoyarsk offer a good opportunity for a picture of the sedentary Siberian and the native city life.

The rail journey is reported carefully, and although the country has been opened to the reading public through many sources, yet this account differs from the others, as Dr. Nansen presents Siberia as a colonial possession. The change of recent years, from Siberia as a prison to Siberia as a colony, will surprise many. East of Lake Baikal, the problem becomes a different and a more difficult one; here the author considers the questions which the Russian Government must solve, such as the protection of travelers and colonizers from brigands, the relations with the Chinese Government and the Chinese people who have settled within the Russian boundaries, and the great task before Russia along the Pacific.

There is no better way for the stay-at-home to gain a fresh and invigorating knowledge of the earth than to read journals of reliable travelers. Dr. Nansen's book, which shows Siberia in a new and interesting light, should be a boon to a large number of readers.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

India of To-day. By E. C. Meyse-Thompson. 230 pp. Map, index. Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1913. 6s. 9 x 6.

A member of the British Parliament with his wife makes the tour of India that had been mapped out for the Prince of Wales. His object is to get a first-hand knowledge of the causes of the so-called "unrest" in India. He finds that India is inhabited by many peoples differing in language, customs, and religion; that British rule has brought to these diverse peoples the *Pax Britannica*, the reign of law and order and equality before the law. Still he sees that the tiller of the soil is oppressed by the farmer of taxes, the money lender and the landlord. While earnest efforts are made to lessen the evils of periodic famine, owing to crop failure through lack of rain, still starvation stares the people in the face when the monsoon fails. Moreover, the government has not brought literacy within the reach of the masses. It would seem from the writer's account that the bringing of content to India would necessitate adequate provision against crop failure by storage of food supply for lean years; and a widespread irrigation system which would store water and obviate complete dependence on the yearly rainfall. It would further require the freeing of the small farmer from the grasp of the tax-gatherer and the money lender; also the complete opening of the civil service to competent natives.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Colloquies on the Simples and Drugs of India. By Garcia da Orta. New edition (Lisbon, 1895) edited and annotated by the Conde de Ficalho. Translated . . . by Sir Clements Markham. xxi and 509 pp. Index. H. Sotheran & Co., London, 1913. 2£ 2s. 9 x 7.

Sir Clements Markham, in producing this translation, has rendered valuable service to the early period of the history of modern geography. Orta was the first Portuguese visitor to India who had, in any degree, the spirit of